

# STOKES' NOTE ROUSED WIFE

His Letter to Children Effort to Hurt Mother, Says Attorney. Read As Evidence.

NEW YORK, April 22.—Can it be that W. E. D. Stokes had in mind his lively young wife when he wrote their children, Muriel and James, about his wandering "pussy" cat?

Martin W. Littleton, attorney for Helen Elwood Stokes in the suit for divorce brought by her elderly millionaire husband, contends that he had.

LETTER STARTED RUPTURE. Her mother, Mrs. Emma Miller, said on the witness stand that the letter marked the beginning of her disapproval of Stokes as a husband and father.

The two typewritten pages with red ink interlineations, which is the "symbolic letter" figuring extensively in the sensational case, was read in court late yesterday afternoon by Littleton. Addressed to "Dear Rod-top and Jimmie," who then were visiting their grandmother in Denver, and dated September 11, 1920, it told of a dog their father expected to buy them. This is the portion characterized as "symbolic" by Mr. Littleton.

TEXT OF "TOMMY CAT" NOTE. "Our pussy is a wandering pussy and does not come near the house except at meal time, when she comes and insists on getting something to eat."

"The rest of the time she is gadding about. I cannot understand where she goes. I have seen her two or three blocks away from home at night, prowling around with other cats. It is awful. She has gotten into bad company and bad ways. She is not satisfied with the friendship of one cat (a nice, big black cat next), but she wants to be running around with a hundred cats. Pretty soon I think she will be friendly with a thousand."

"By the books before me it looks to me as if our pussy was friendly with a thousand Tommy-cats and still keeps young and fools everybody about her age."

The letter was signed "Daddy." Littleton attempted to show that in his original bill of complaint, Stokes implied illegitimacy of the children. Such implication, according to Herbert Smyth, Stokes' attorney, existed only in the imagination of his opponent.

INFURIATED BY QUESTIONS. Under Smyth's cross-examination concerning Mrs. Stokes' association with Hal Billig, her cousin, and Edgar T. Wallace, both named co-respondents, Mrs. Miller became infuriated and nearly hysterical. At one point she declared that she would refuse to answer questions unless she could reply in her own way. As her answers usually involved long, exhaustive recitals, there was endless bickering between attorneys, even overrulings of the court.

Mrs. Miller told of Billig's visit to the Stokes' home New Year's eve, 1918, and during the months following. She said he occupied a room on the second floor which formerly had been her daughter's while Mrs. Stokes, she said, moved to the floor above. She denied excitedly that any of her daughter's wardrobe had been left in the room turned over to Billig. She also denied knowledge of Stokes' objection to having the young man in the house. Smyth persisted: "Don't you know that Mr. Stokes

# Mother of Mrs. Stokes, Who Defends Her in Suit

Mrs. Miller testified that Mrs. Stokes had been an ideal mother for her two children. She denied that there had ever been anything in Mrs. Stokes' friendship with Harold Billig, an alleged western admirer, that could be justly criticized. Mrs. Stokes had never gone out alone with Mr. Billig, she declared.



MRS. EMMA MILLER.

objected to finding Hal Billig in his wife's room at 2 o'clock?" She declared that her son-in-law never had found Billig in his wife's room, and that anyway it wasn't 2 o'clock, but 1. Billig left the house that night because of the general turbulence, she continued. Stokes, she testified, did not depart two days later, January 8, as Smyth suggested, but remained till January 10. She then called Billig from Chicago, and he remained in the Stokes' home from the latter part of January until they left the house on the following May 12. He took two trips West during that time, she said. Smyth asked: "RACE FOR HOTEL REGISTER. "One trip was to get the hotel register in Colorado, wasn't it?" "I don't know; I don't remember." "Didn't you hear him say that it was a race between Hal Billig and Mr. Gleason, representing Mr. Stokes, as to who would get the hotel register, and that he got there first?" "I don't know. I think they got there about the same time." She then admitted, in answer to Smyth's questions, that Billig had all the meals at the Stokes home during the time of his living there. She

didn't know who paid the expenses, she said. Mrs. Stokes was revealed as a possible rival to the celebrated Charlotte (Kid) Russe in a letter she wrote to her mother from White Sulphur Springs. An idea of the walloping young wife packs in a pinch may be gleaned from this signed story of what happened to the nurse that blanketed the babies' heads to stifle their crying: "She followed me into the room, but mother dear, she followed me wrong woman. I got out of bed, grabbed her by the shoulders and shook her till I was out of breath. Then I took a fresh hold and shook her again. I repeated it a third time with a final shove that sent her across the room with a bang. I was afraid of losing my mind. Ever since she has been licking my boots. I told her that only her gray hairs prevented my carving my name in her face. Then I went back to bed and read. "HELEN." And the cryptical postscript of this letter contained this fragment of feminine philosophy: "Husbands sometimes spoil perfectly good dreams." Mrs. Stokes laughed as she heard this line, which remained unexplained at recess. The question regarding insanity which suggested the query, "Who's Looney Now?" made famous in another case, came up when Mrs. Miller was asked if she had ever discussed with Stokes mental and marital conditions together. She responded curtly: "I tried to patch up things the best I could, but I thought Mr. Stokes was insane."

NO INSANITY STRAIN. Smyth then read this extract from a letter by Mrs. Miller to Stokes: "There is not any insanity on our side of Helen's family for three generations. I never heard of any case, no matter how remote. There was one person who might be called peculiar, but I think you have been wrongly informed."

Mrs. Miller volunteered to analyze her present feelings toward Stokes in a single word if the court would permit it, but Smyth, who has heard much of Mrs. Miller's characterizations, persuaded her to refrain, saying that he could guess it. Mrs. Stokes was smiling now. Mrs. Miller conceded that her daughter was anxious to have a New York home outside her husband's hotel, but denied that she had selected one with a \$24,000 rental.

A mass of testimony was taken regarding Mrs. Stokes' financial resources before her marriage and the manner in which the \$50,000 in jewels was lost, but Mrs. Miller blocked much information by flatly refusing to answer.

It was shown by letters that Stokes had complained that his wife would not give him a list of the lost jewels, their origin or purchase price. Mrs. Miller denied that any were gifts from other men, and added that Stokes had given very few.

In probing into Mrs. Stokes' pre-nuptial wealth, Smyth tried to show that her father had left an estate including only "one milch cow, one calf, one horse, one saddle, one bridle and household furnishings." Mrs. Miller denied it but would not reveal what was left.

This question, made the total inventory of the animals figuring in the testimony of the day as follows: Cats 1 pussy, 1,000 tomnies; goats, 1, male; cows, 2; horses, 1; dogs, 1.

# KANSAS SENATORS URGE MERCER FOR I. C. C. POST

Senators Curtis and Capper of Kansas today urged upon President Harding the appointment of J. H. Mercer, of Strong City, Kan., as a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission. Mercer, the Kansas Senators said, is one of the largest cattle raisers in the State, and admirably fitted for the position.

They also urged the appointment of Brig. Gen. C. H. Martin, adjutant general of the Kansas national guard, as chief of the militia bureau. General Martin, they told the President, has the endorsement for this position of the governors of thirty-five States.

# TREATY VOTE AUGURS GOOD

—HAPGOOD

Writer Says It Shows 55 Senators Will Not Blindly Follow Leaders.

By NORMAN HAPGOOD.

Since my article on the ratification of the Colombia treaty was published a reader of brilliancy and penetration has seen in it a sign of hostility to the Administration. This only shows how difficult it is to be clear. It happens that I was enthusiastically on the side of the Administration in the case under discussion, the Colombia treaty. It also happens that I think the Administration has done exceedingly well up to date and deserves cordial good will.

TREATY VOTE ANALYZED.

But cordiality is not inconsistent with fair criticism. The existence of freedom of thought in Congress is a good thing not only for the country but for the Administration itself. What was the theme of my article? It was simply that the aspect of the treaty vote that most interested the Senators themselves was what it revealed as the first test of strength in a case where orders had gone out from the Republican leaders.

What is the situation revealed? First we have in the Senate thirty-seven Democrats, who naturally on the whole belong to the opposition, although they voted with the Administration, and it was Wilson policy. Then you have seventeen Republicans, voting or paired against the policy on which discipline had been called for. Lastly we have in all, Pollock, France and Ladd, three independents, and in McCormick a man who belongs in the insurgent group.

In a Senate of ninety-six, therefore, we have something in the neighborhood of fifty-four who would usually not bolt as they did yesterday, who will not support the measures of the Republican leaders unless they seem good to them. My proposition is that such a situation is more promising than if discipline were as iron as in the height of power of Aldrich and Cannon.

RECALLS A NORRIS SPEECH.

At a dinner the other night Senator Norris made this point clear in a talk that thrilled those who heard it. The gist of it was like this: "Too rigid discipline takes the life and the value out of government. It makes the parties just alike and makes them both the tools of the special interests. I would rather be represented in Congress by a man who was free and disagreed with me than by a man who was a slave of the machine and agreed with me."

On the Colombia treaty he said: "I do not care which side a man votes on in that matter. The important thing is that he shall have a conviction and vote according to his conviction."

Of course Norris or any other reasonable man would admit the need for leadership. But the steam roller is different. Senator Harris aroused much hilarity with the tale of his first vote, many years ago, when he had just come to the House. It was February 21, the day before Washington's Birthday. Suggesting the leader of the Democrats, who were then in the minority in both Houses, arose and proposed adjournment until the 23d. Immediately the Republican leader arose and opposed it. The motion was lost.

The new member from Nebraska had not thought much about it, but he had a sort of notion it might be just as well to pay this tribute to the father of his country, to be counted on that side. He was the only Republican. Dark looks greeted him. He went into the cloak room. One tall member was there. He said:

REBUKED BY VETERAN.

"Young man you have made a great mistake. Could you not see it was a party measure? I tell you for your own good it will be well for you to vote as your leaders vote."

The next day Norris thought he would look in on the Senate. The chamber was empty. He asked an attendant: "What is the matter? Where are the Senators?" The attendant gave him a look of scorn. "Don't you know it is Washington's Birthday?" The Republican leader in the Senate had been quick enough to move an adjournment before the Democratic leader did, so it carried, and what was wrong at one end of the Capitol building was right in the other.

Senator Lorimer was an example of complete partisanship. Often he did not turn up at roll call unless he was sent for. Then he came in without knowing what the vote was about. Somebody one asked him how he knew how to vote. He said:

"La Follette and Lodge came just before me. I get in before they vote. If La Follette votes yes I vote no. If Lodge votes yes I vote yes. If they both vote yes I don't vote."

That may explain why, although I favored the Colombia treaty, I was glad to see Senators asserting their independence. It may explain why, although I think the record of the Administration has been excellent, I like to see as many men as possible in the Cabinet, in the Senate, in the House, talking and voting like men, not like pawns in a machine.

# STERLING TO TALK ON PAY REVISION

Senator Sterling, of South Dakota, co-author of the Sterling Lehigh Retirement law enacted last year, and a vigorous exponent of the present reclassification measure up before the Senate, will address a meeting of Federal Employees Union No. 2 at the Pythian Temple, 1912 Ninth street, tonight at 8 o'clock.

# 'SASH' CLUE IN LIGI'S CLOSET

Window Weights Found in Bomb Suspect's Haunt Like Those Wrecked in Wall Street.

SCRANTON, Pa., April 22.—A definite attempt will be made here today to identify Tito Ligi, held as a bomb suspect, as the man who drove the "death wagon" into Wall street last September 16. Federal agents have summoned from New York three witnesses who viewed the "death wagon" driver at close range.

SCRANTON, Pa., April 22.—One hundred jagged pieces of metal, similar to shattered window sash weights, were found in the Acona restaurant, a frequent haunt of Tony Ligi, held by Federal agents as suspect in the Wall street bomb explosion, it was learned today. The discovery was made by reporters, who turned their find over to Federal authorities.

FOUND IN TIN BOX.

The metal fragments were found in a tin box. They closely resembled the broken bits of sash weights found scattered over Wall street after the explosion.

Ligi, Federal officials said, has not yet established an alibi for his whereabouts on the day of the explosion. Ligi was employed at the restaurant, a frequent haunt of Tony Ligi, held by Federal agents as suspect in the Wall street bomb explosion, it was learned today. The discovery was made by reporters, who turned their find over to Federal authorities.

The tin box holding the broken metal bits was found in a closet where Ligi had been accustomed to hang his coat, police said. The find is considered exceedingly important by Federal officials.

Search of Ligi's effects, it is said, revealed a complete secret code built on the dot and dash system. Names of several leading anarchists were also found on papers in his possession.

Attorneys for the suspect have demanded an immediate hearing, but the Government has contended its examination of the facts is not yet completed. The prisoner is subjected to constant drilling.

It has been charged on a technical charge of draft evasion, has denied all connection with the New York explosion. His arrest followed a secret service investigation of that incident.

It has been charged that Ligi quit a job here on September 8, eight days before the explosion. His movements between that time and early October, when he was re-employed on a Scranton construction job, have yet to be traced.

ADmits HE IS ANARCHIST.

One reason why such a close search was made in this city for possible bomb plot suspects was that the Department of Justice investigation revealed that window weights of the type used in the Wall Street bomb had formerly been manufactured here.

Ligi, whose quarters connected with two abandoned mine shafts, has been under surveillance since November. In the mine shafts were found anarchistic literature and traces of explosives. Ligi has admitted being a philosophical anarchist, the police say.

No one but Secret Service men, detectives, and a lawyer, whom he has retained, are permitted to see Ligi. The authorities have expressed the opinion that he resembles photographs of the man said to have driven the wagon which brought the September bomb to Wall and Broad streets.

GRILLED FOR TWO HOURS.

The Scranton police have assisted in tracing Ligi's movements for the last three years, with the exception of a month or two about the time of the explosion, until November 2, when he became a waiter in a Scranton restaurant. He formerly was an anthracite coal miner in various fields.

Detective Thomas Martin, of the New York homicide bureau, after a two-hour session with Ligi, announced he would continue his questioning today. Photographs of Ligi were sent to Captain Carey, of the New York homicide bureau. Ligi is twenty-seven years old.

Chief William J. Flynn, of the Bureau of Investigation of the United States Department of Justice, is expected to arrive from Washington tomorrow morning to take up the direction of the investigation.

# STEEL CO. OF CANADA.

TORONTO, April 23.—Robert Hobson, president of Steel Company of Canada, addressing stockholders at annual meeting, attributed present unsettled conditions facing steel industry to inordinately high freight rates and equally high wages paid employees.

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# Alexander Graham Bell and Wife Spend Night In Detention House

Stick by Side of Secretary, Washington Girl, Held Up by Immigration Authorities.



Professor A. G. Bell in detention.

MONTREAL, April 22.—Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, of Washington, D. C., the telephone inventor, and Mrs. Bell spent Tuesday night in the detention building of the Bureau of Immigration at Vancouver, Me., because Miss Catherine Mackenzie, his secretary, was detained there on being refused admission to the United States.

They returned yesterday to St. John, N. S., whence they had come.

Miss Mackenzie is a British subject, although she has lived in Washington for seven years.

agriculture was declared to be the chief victim.

S. W. Brookheart, a delegate to the convention from Iowa, who narrowly missed beating Cummins for the Senatorial nomination, read the report of the committee on deflation. The report declared that the farmers only receive 3 per cent of the money which their products bring in the final markets, while labor gets less than 35 per cent of what it actually produces.

It was stated that these factors together with heavy freight rates, waste and extravagance in railway management, gambling in food and clothing and the manipulation of credits by men who "toil not, neither do they spin," were responsible for the high cost of living while the Federal Reserve Board, "evidently influenced by a false cry from Wall Street, had done its share in pounding down the price of farm products."

Prices realized on Swift & Co. sales of carcasses of beef in Washington for week ending Saturday, April 16, 1921, as shipments sold out, ranged from 12 cents per pound to 18 cents per pound.—Adv.

# U. S. RAIL CONTROL URGED BY FARMERS

Esch-Cummins Bill Denounced As Failure By National Union Convention.

United Government control of the railways was demanded and the Esch-Cummins bill was denounced as a failure by the convention of the National Farmers' Union at 1731 I street this morning. The resolution embodying these conclusions was voluminous, dealing with the whole transportation system, questions of finance co-operation between the consumers and producers and the Federal Reserve Board, which was declared to be to a large extent responsible for the deflation of which

# TEXT OF U. S. BERLIN REPARATIONS NOTES

to President Harding follows: The text of the German note "In the name of the German Government and the German people the undersigned, notwithstanding the still existing technical state of war, respectfully petition the President of the United States to mediate in the reparation question and to fix the sum to be paid by Germany to the allied powers." They earnestly urge him to secure the consent of the allied powers to such mediation. They solemnly declare that the German government is ready and willing to agree, without reservations or qualifications, to pay to the allied powers as reparations such sum as the President, after examination and investigation, may first just and right. "They formally pledge themselves to fulfill in letter and in spirit all the provisions of any award that may be made by him. With abiding faith in the righteousness of this request and with undeniable sincerity of purpose, the German people, through their constituted government, submit the appeal to the President of the United States, with the confident hope that it will be granted, to the end that the final award may be made in accordance with right and justice, to meet the heartfelt wishes of all civilized nations to avoid the immeasurable consequences of the imminent coercive measures and to promote the peace of the world."

The United States' reply sent by Secretary Hughes follows: "This government could not agree to mediate the question of reparations, with a view to acting as umpire in its settlement. Impressed, however, with the seriousness of the issues involved as they affect the whole world, the government of the United States feels itself deeply concerned with the question of obtaining an early and just solution. This Government strongly desires that there should be an immediate resumption of negotiations and reiterates its earnest hope that the German government will promptly formulate such proposals as would present a proper basis for discussion. Should the German government take this course, this government will consider bringing the matter to the attention of the allied governments in a manner acceptable to them in order that negotiations may speedily be resumed."

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